

WILLIAM D. AVERELL

William D. Averell, founder and editor of *The Conchologist's Exchange*, died at his home in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, May 8, at the age of 75 years. Mr. Averell was born in Philadelphia and resided here all his life. He was deeply interested in Conchology, but made no permanent collection. He was chiefly known as a dealer in shells and in connection with his little journal, which proved to be highly useful for bringing together the conchologists and collectors of the late '80s. For the last twenty years of his life Mr. Averell was an invalid. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

—H. A. P.

FRED L. BUTTON

The sudden death of Mr. Fred L. Button which occurred October 2, 1927, was a great shock to his many friends. Mr. Button was born in Pontiac, Michigan, March 10, 1856, his parents moving to California in 1863. He was educated in the high school of Oakland and the University of California, graduating in 1876. After serving as instructor in the University he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1879. For many years he resided in Oakland.

Mr. Button's long interest in the study of Mollusca and the extensive correspondence required in building up his large collection made him one of the outstanding collectors of the old school. From a leaflet which he published on his collection we glean the following: The collection is a general one covering the marine, terrestrial, and fluviatile species of the world. It was commenced by Mr. Button's father in 1868. Since that time Mr. Button has made many collecting trips along the Pacific coast from Southern California to Alaska.

The collection, which we understand is for sale, contains over 12,500 species and named varieties, represented by

about 50,000 specimens. With the exception of the Unionidae, which are packed, the collection is arranged in eleven cabinets of 130 drawers with 50 trays set in. The land shells are represented by over 4,000 and the marine univalves by over 5,700 species. Mr. Button specialized on the Cypraeidae and this family is largely represented both in species and in number of specimens. He published a number of notes on the rarer species of *Cypraea* and *Trivia* in THE NAUTILUS, vols. 19, 21 and 22.

Mr. Button was interested in music and a member of several orchestras. He was also active in Masonic circles. He is survived by a widow and three daughters.—C. W. J.

THE BOSTON MALACOLOGICAL CLUB

The Boston Malacological Club has held its regular meetings during the past season, on the evening of the first Tuesday of the month, from October to May inclusive, at the Library of the Boston Society of Natural History.

The membership list continues at about forty, a few resignations having been offset by the acquisition of new members.

The speakers have, with one exception, been members of the Club. Two papers were given by Mr. William J. Clench, the president, one dealing with collecting fresh water forms in Kentucky, the other with a recent trip to Cuba, richly rewarded, as the land forms are so abundant there.

Mr. Arthur F. Gray, the Club's former president, described collecting both recent and fossil shells in Bermuda, Mr. Charles W. Johnson spoke on distribution and variation with a paper on New England limpets, and from Dr. Joseph C. Bequaert, the Club heard an account of the recent Harvard Expedition to western and central Africa.

Other meetings were devoted to the study of various families of marine shells, and one evening was given to a